

Hillcrest CHURCH

Today's Gathering

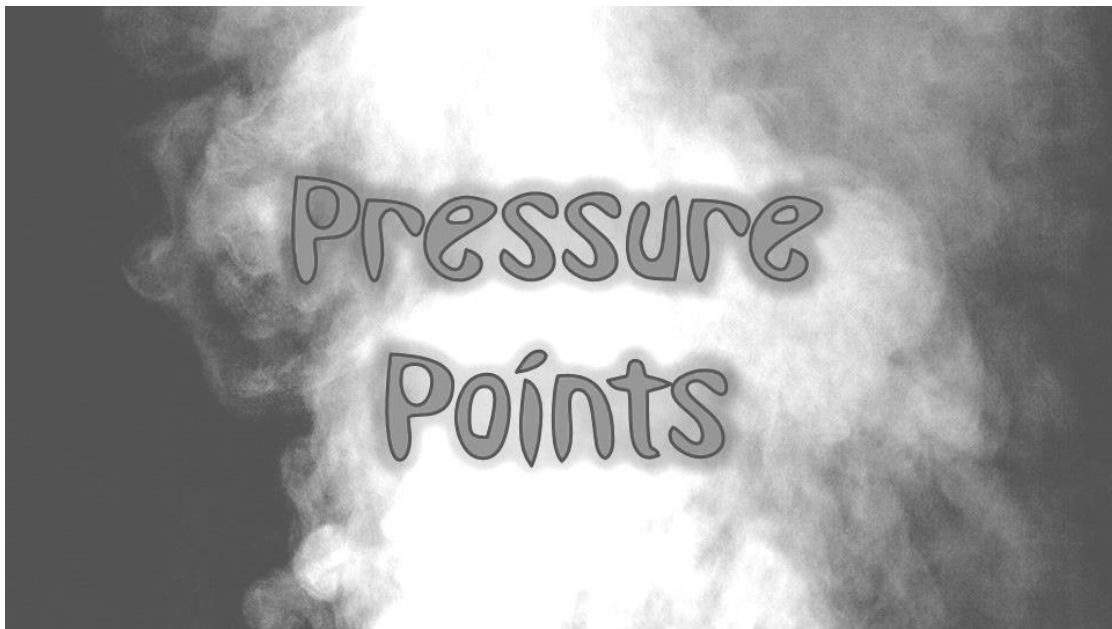
November 1st, 2015

View from the Hill

Pastor Brian Stroh

Singing

Gary Rakebrandt, Norma Dalen, and Jesse VanderWeide



The Wild Tongue

Pastor Doug Bartel

For the Kids

Parents can go to the Children's Check-In to find out about our Sunday morning options and check their children in. The Children's Check-In is located on the north side of the main foyer. See page 5 of the bulletin for more information about opportunities for Children and Students.

Welcome to Hillcrest

New to Hillcrest?

If you are new to Hillcrest, we'd like to say "Welcome!" We're glad you're here this morning. Please stop by the Welcome Center, following the worship service to meet one of our pastors and receive a **free gift**.

Ready to Take the Next Step?

Hillcrest provides many opportunities to get involved with others in the church and the community. If you would like to find out more about classes, Bible studies, and small groups that are offered, stop by the Welcome Center, check out the Ministries section on our web site at www.siouxfallschurch.com, or call the church office at 371-0546.

Our Weekly Bulletin and Devotional

Hillcrest provides this weekly bulletin/devotional to help you connect, serve others and study the Bible throughout the week.

On pages 3-5, you will discover connecting and serving opportunities as well as information regarding Children's and Student's Ministries.

On page 6, you have a place to take notes from the message. Also on page 6 is a memory verse, selected each week by Hillcrest leaders.

On pages 7-12, you will find a short devotional for each day. You will read a new text, some commentary and consider some questions to further your growth, as well as a challenge to help you take what you have studied and start to live it!

On page 13, you will find a Prayer Page, where you can keep track of your daily prayers. On page 14, you will find staff contact info.

Our prayer is that God will speak to you as you study His Word and as a result, it will impact the people in your life.

Want information on even more events happening at Hillcrest? Sign up for our weekly e-mail by marking your connection card and turning it in. Don't forget to include your e-mail address!

Connect

Baptism

Our next baptism service will be on November 29th. Christ asked all of his followers to be baptized, in fact the Apostle Paul said, "Why wait? Get up and be baptized." Baptism is available for any person that has accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. If you are interested in baptism, contact Pastor Doug or Pastor Brian to reserve a spot.

Hillcrest Business Meeting

Hillcrest will have its semi-annual business meeting on Sunday, November 8th after the second service. Food will be served. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children and students with a family max of \$12. Agendas and reports are available to pick up at the Welcome Center. If you would like to attend, please sign up at the Welcome Center, mark your connection card, or contact Pastor Brian.

1st Sunday at the Pizza Ranch

Today is the first Sunday of the month. You are all invited to lunch at the 10th Street Pizza Ranch (CHANGED from 41st Street location) following the 10:30 service. This is an informal event, so simply show up and enjoy lunch with other Hillcresters. There is no need to RSVP and each person/family will be responsible for the cost of their own meals. There are also a few SCRIP cards available at the Welcome Center. If you plan to go, stop there first to get money back for other Hillcrest Events!

Cookies & Cocoa

Ladies! Please join us for our 2nd annual cookie exchange, "Cookies & Cocoa" to be held on Tuesday night, November 17th at 6:30 p.m.

in the Family Life Center. We will taste, talk, pack and play!

Sign-up begins Sunday, November 1st at the cookie table in the front foyer.

There is no cost to attend that evening. You bring cookies, you take home different cookies - all details at the sign-up table. Hope to see you there!

Adoption Fundraiser

On Thursday, November 12th, Chevys restaurant in Sioux Falls will be hosting an adoption fundraiser to help Ryan & Chariti Oaks bring home their daughter, Jooi, from China. Chevys will donate 15% of your bill total to Jooi's Adoption Fund when you present a copy of a special ticket, which you can pick up at the Welcome Center.

November Outreach Focus – Food to You

Hillcrest is excited to start a new mission focus with Food to You, which is a Mobile Food Pantry for individuals and families in need of food. They offer government commodities, produce, bread, pastries, and assorted frozen food. It is a grocery-style distribution, with the families taking the food home to be cooked and consumed. Hillcrest's own Nick Welder is the Executive Director of Food to You.

On November 19, 2015 at Augustana Lutheran Church, Hillcresters are invited to volunteer to assist with the distribution of food. They need 18 - 22 volunteers (6th grade and older) for the distribution, starting at 5:15pm, as well as 4 - 5 individuals to help unload the truck and set up the room, starting at 4:15pm. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you would like to volunteer.

Food to You also offers a Food of the Month every month. For November, they need Peanut Butter collected and donated for the distribution. Please drop off donations near the outreach bulletin board in the front foyer by Sunday, November 29th.

Facility Work Day

On Saturday November 7th, starting at 8am, join others for Hillcrest's Fall Facility Clean Up Day! We have lots to do both inside and outside. Come for however long you can! Sign up at the Welcome Center or mark the back of your Connection Card if you plan to volunteer.

SCRIP Program

Now is the time when many of us start thinking about Christmas shopping! If you like to give gift cards, consider using Hillcrest's SCRIP Program to give back to 180 Student Ministries. It is an easy way to help out with expenses for student events and trips without spending any extra money. The way it works is that vendors give a portion of the money that you spend on gift cards back to Hillcrest. You can choose to assign your donations to a specific student or for the money to go to the general fund to help whichever students need it. You can also use SCRIP for other Hillcrest events. We can now take credit and debit cards! Sign up on our web site at siouxfallschurch.com/scrip or contact Jennifer Simons for more information.

Children's Ministry

All children should stop at the Children's Check-In, located on the north side of the front foyer, before going to their classroom.

9 AM Children's Program

Baby Owl House: 0-4 year olds
(pre-schoolers will break off into a small learning group)

10:30 AM Children's Program

Baby Owl House: Infants & 1 yr olds
Bird House: 2 year olds
Tree House: 3 year olds
Dog House: 4 year olds
Club House: K-5th Grade

Bingo Night

On Sunday, November 15th from 2:30-3:30, we'll be singing Christmas carols, playing Bingo, and having a snack with the residents of Stoney Brook Assisted Living! Children must be accompanied by an adult. Sign up in the back foyer if your family plans to attend.

Operation Christmas Child

This year, Hillcrest Children's Ministry is once again supporting Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, which provides gifts for needy children around the world. This Sunday, November 1st, your child should be receiving an envelope with instructions on how they can help. If you would like to put together a shoebox of your own, you can stop by the table in the front foyer or the Welcome Center to pick up instructions.

Aloha Christmas

On Sunday, December 13th, during both services, Hillcrest Children's Ministries will be performing their Christmas Program, "Aloha Christmas." All children in pre-school through 5th grade will participate. Children should be bringing home a note that has more information and a rehearsal schedule.

Student Ministry

180 Sunday Classes

Students meet upstairs in the Youth Room at 10:30am for snacks and games, then break up into small groups for lessons and discussion time.

180 Wednesday Nights

Middle School meets at Hillcrest from 6-7:30pm and High School meets from 7:30-9pm. Includes lesson, small group time, snack, & games!

180 Events

Girls Sleepover – On Saturday, November 14th starting at 7pm, 180 Girls will have a sleepover including games, snacks, crafts, movies, and fun! Invite Friends. Cost is \$10. Stop at the Welcome Center to pick up a registration form.

Message Notes:

Title: The Wild Tongue

Scripture: James 3:1-12

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Proverbs 13:3 (NLT) Those who control their tongue will have a long life; opening your mouth can ruin everything.

Monday

Subject: How to Seem Smart

Scripture: Proverbs 17:27-28; 21:23

Commentary:

How many of us have said something and, while the words are still hanging in the air, wish we could reel them back in? Unfortunately that's not how it works, which is why this advice is so valuable. As this passage says, it is always best to consider our words carefully before we let them come out of our mouth. As the old saying goes, "Better to remain silent and let others think you a fool than to open your mouth and confirm the fact."

Questions for further thought:

1. Can you think of a situation where you said something that you immediately regretted?
2. How can we improve our ability to consider our words before we speak them?

Challenge:

Keep a list this week. On the list, write down instances where you spoke words you now wish you hadn't. Also, write down times where you considered your words and made a better decision—either to use different words or hold your tongue.

Tuesday

Subject: The Power of Words

Scripture: Proverbs 18:19; Matthew 12:26

Commentary:

The quickest path to offense is through words. We have to understand power of words to offend, and that power has been multiplied dramatically thanks to technology. In today's culture, the words need not be spoken but can be sent electronically in a message, posting, or blog—devoid of inflection and open to interpretation. In the world of social media, offense is almost impossible to contain. Rather than the offense only involving a "brother," it may be taken up by thousands of strangers.

Questions for further thought:

1. Many people today seem to think that it's ok to say whatever they want wherever they want. Does that thinking seem consistent with what the Bible teaches?
2. How well do you guard your words, considering the power they have to change lives and relationships?

Challenge:

This week, take a look at your use of social media. If you use it to take in or pass on anything but positive information, reconsider your approach. If the media you're viewing seems to be pushing you in a negative direction, consider fasting from it for a week—or longer—and substituting more positive inputs.

Wednesday

Subject: No, it's Not "Sharing the Details"

Scripture: Proverbs 26:20-24

Commentary:

It's gossip, the "permissible" church sin. It takes many forms, but the intention is never positive. Gossip is fuel for conflict. Often the gossip appears to be interested in spiritual good; but like a "pretty glaze covers an earthen pot" the hateful person "covers their hatred with pretty words" (NLT). Check your motives before sharing a prayer concern—or any personal information or opinion—that would be better kept in confidence.

Questions for further thought:

1. Why do we find gossip so irresistible?
2. When you come upon a conversation centered on gossip, what is your reaction? Do you disengage as quickly as possible or find yourself drawn in? Or do you attempt to redirect the discussion?

Challenge:

Before you enter your week, decide how you will respond to the gossip you will certainly encounter. Will you excuse yourself, or will you take an active stand to redirect the conversation? Both are better approaches than participation.

Thursday

Subject: Speaking Life

Scripture: Proverbs 16:24; 25:11-13;
Ephesians 4:29

Commentary:

As damaging as thoughtless or intentionally hurtful words can be, words of praise, instruction, and encouragement can be life changing. Because of the way that God has changed our lives, we should have a positive outlook on this life. We have the opportunity to be agents of encouragement, serving as a conduit for the love and hope that Jesus can bring. Let our words be the life that so many need each day.

Questions for further thought:

1. Can you think of a person in your life who has been a consistent source of encouragement to you?
2. Do you find yourself in a positive environment most days? If not, how can you remain/become a source of hope?

Challenge:

Each day this week, identify at least one person in your world who could use some encouragement. Be that encourager.

Friday

Subject: A Voice for the Voiceless

Scripture: Proverbs 31:8–9

Commentary:

The Bible is clear that God has a special concern for the poor, the powerless, and the oppressed. So should His church. Because we understand that every individual is incredibly valuable to God, we are in a perfect position to come to the defense of those who can't defend themselves. Using our voices to seek justice honors and pleases God.

Questions for further thought:

1. Can you think of an everyday situation where you may be called to speak up for someone in a powerless situation?

2. If you encountered a situation like the one above, what might keep you from speaking up?

Challenge:

Consider what standing up for those who are oppressed might look like in your daily world. Consider the action you might take—whether by speaking directly into a situation or supporting others who are helping to seek justice or support for those who have no resources. Then, take that action.

Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: Pressure Points
Message Title: Getting Wisdom
Scripture: James 3:13-18
Speaker: Pastor Doug Bartel

What do these passages say to you?

Staff Contact Information



Doug Bartel
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Jennifer Simons
Administrative Assistant
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Bill Lewis
Custodian

Connection Card

Please fill out, tear at perforation and place in collection plate or drop off at Welcome Center as you leave.

PRAYER REQUESTS **Keep confidential (Pastoral staff) or** **Put on the Prayer Chain**

My next step today is to:

- Read and study the scriptures and devotionals, provided on pages 6-12.
- Volunteer for Facility Work Day on November 7th.
- Attend Business Meeting and lunch on November 8th.
- Volunteer for Food to You on November 19th.

Additional Comments:



4301 E. 26th St. Sioux Falls, SD 57103

605-371-0546

www.sioxfordschurch.com

Connection Card

Please fill out and tear at perforation and place in collection plate or drop off at Welcome Center as you leave.

Name _____ Address _____

E-Mail _____ City/State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Check all that apply:

- 1st Visit --- How did you hear about Hillcrest? _____
- 2nd Visit _____
- Returning Guest
- Regular Attender
- Members

(web site, newspaper, radio, name of person who invited you, etc.)

I am interested in:

- beginning a relationship with Jesus being baptized
- receiving the Hillcrest Informational E-mail.
- joining a small group becoming a member of Hillcrest
- volunteering praying for my Hillcrest family (received via e-mail)

One of the pastors will contact you with information on these subjects.

Your Age Group:

- 18-24 25-35
- 36-45 46-55
- 56-65 over 65

- Single Married

- Divorced
- Widowed

Other: _____

Names & Birthdays of members of your household
